The Clarion Call

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Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

From The Department Commander

Brothers,

After 100 years, the General Darius Couch Camp 26 is closing, and their Charter is being revoked. We have two other Camps that are at their minimum membership. How did we get to this point? By not actively recruiting new Brothers.

Recruiting is every Brothers job. Everyone understands that if each of us were to recruit just one new Brother a year, our membership would immediately double and thereafter multiply. As stated in the SUVCW's "Purpose and Objects," there is much to be done, and membership growth assures that these efforts will be maintained and improved upon.

Websites and Facebook pages do not recruit new members, YOU do and essential to recruiting success is public recognition of the SUVCW and the accomplishments of its membership. To that end, we often hold ceremonies for ourselves with no public participation. We must reach out to other organizations and advertise our events to get people interested in what we do.

In my Department Order No. 8, I gave each Camp a goal of bringing in two new members in 2025. I also challenge each one of you to find ONE new member this year. This can be a Hereditary or Associate member. Just one.

Ask your friends and coworkers if they know of our order and would they like to join? Be ready to tell them about specific things we do to meet our mission such as cleaning and preserving headstones and monuments, supporting Scouting, Memorial Day activities, identifying unmarked veterans' graves and getting them marked through the Veterans Administration, education in schools and any other activities your Camp performs. Also, explain the Fraternity aspect of our mission and explain that joining includes

you in a National network of men who form lifelong friendships through this organization and our common bonds.

When I joined the SUVCW in 2015, we had 174 Brothers in the Department. Today, we have 169. In comparison, the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution has 500 members. We all need to work together to grow this organization and keep it active for future generations.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rod

25th Annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Brunch Held in Wakefield

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Department of Massachusetts held its 25th annual Abraham Lincoln Brunch at "Upstairs at Harrington's" in Wakefield, Massachusetts. The Brunch, originally scheduled for February 16th, was postponed for one week due to storm conditions on that day.

As always, the brunch buffet at Harrington's was superb, and the service staff was top notch. The menu included Eggs Benedict and Whiskey Chicken in cream sauce, along with other breakfast fare. At the end of the event, a special Lincoln birthday cake was served for dessert.

In attendance were General F.W. Lander Camp No. 5 Commander Paul Kenworthy and his spouse, Laura Eisner, President of the Saugus, Massachusetts Historical Society, as well as Major Thomas B Griffith Camp No. 22 Commander Charlie Lewis and his Camp Brothers, Willie Grout Camp No. 25 Commander Matther Sargent and his Camp Brothers, Charles H. Bond Camp No. 104 Senior Vice Commander

Richard Nichols and his Camp Brothers, Brothers of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Camp No 54, and Brothers of Bay State Camp No. 61.

Department Brothers were joined by the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution Vice President General and Regent of the Sergeant William H. Carney Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the Union Paula Renkas, who brought the greetings of the Chapter. She was joined by her Chapter Sisters and their spouses.

Bringing greetings of the American Legion was District 7 Senior Vice Commander and William E. Carter Post 16, American Legion Commander Mary-dith Tuitt. The greetings of the Civil War Round Tables of Massachusetts were brought by past president Albert Smith of the General Lander Round Table of Lynn. Massachusetts Department Secretary and Past Department Commander John Dupré Brought Greetings of Department Commander Roderick Fraser who was out of state for the event.

The National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was represented by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker, PDC and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Daniel Murray, PDC, who also gave the Invocation and Benediction for the Brunch.

Past Department Commander John Bates III was the Master of Ceremonies for the program, and the Featured Speaker was Christian G. Samito, PhD., author of “Lincoln and the Thirteenth Amendment” who presented an amazing talk on why and how President Lincoln pushed for a Constitutional amendment to end slavery over all other legal and legislative means. Dr. Samito is a professor of eighteenth and nineteenth century American history, with a focus on constitutional and legal history, political history, military history, economic history, and ethnic history. at Boston University School of Law. Following his presentation, Dr. Samito signed

copies of his book for a few lucky attendees who won them as a door prize.

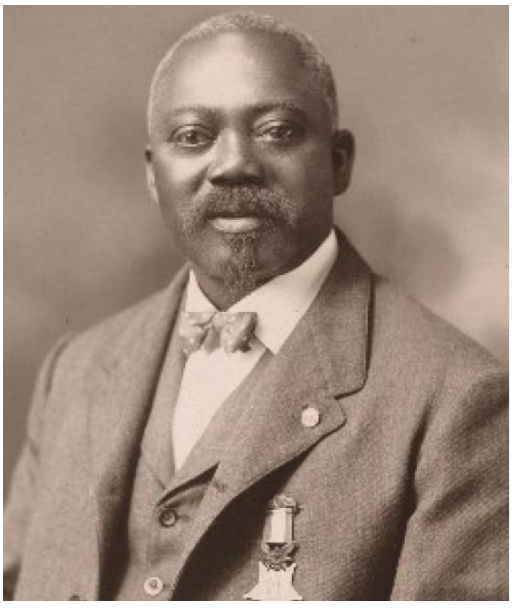
This year being the 25th Lincoln Birthday Brunch sponsored by the Department of Massachusetts, Brother John Bates III, PDC had a commemorative pin created for the occasion, which was sold to raise funds to cover some of the cost of the Brunch.

Photos from the Lincoln Breakfast Bruch are courtesy of Brother Michael Terry of Camp #104.

March 25th is Medal of Honor Day

Medal of Honor Day, celebrated annually on March 25, is a federal observance that commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of over 3,500 individuals who have received the Medal of Honor. Awarded for "…conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of one's life, above and beyond the call of duty," the Medal of Honor sits atop the "Pyramid of Honor" as the United States' highest military recognition.

This day was established by Congress to "foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients" and was first celebrated on March 25, 1991. This date was chosen because it was on that date in 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrew's Raiders.



Sergeant William Harvey Carney 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry was the first Black Medal of Honor Recipient by date of action. He was awarded the MOH for his actions during the July 18, 1863 Battle of Fort Wagner, outside Charleston South Carolina. His citation reads: When the color sergeant was shot down, this soldier grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet, and planted the colors thereon. When the troops fell back he brought off the flag, under a fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded.

Photograph of the actual Medal of Honor Carney was awarded on May 23, 1900

Real Son Brother Bill Pool turns 100

Brother Bill Pool of Bolivar Missouri turned 100 years old in January. William Pool was born on 13 January 1925 to Charles and Clara Pool.

His Father, Charles Pool, born 27 March 1844 in Ritchie County, West Virginia, served in the Union Army with the Sixth West Virginia Volunteers. He was wounded in the left leg which required an amputation above the knee. After the war, he received an invalid pension from the Government.

Charles married Clara Bell Straw-Booth on August 15, 1915 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She was 27 and he was 71. Charles and Clara were the parents of 5 children, Charles Thomas Pool born 1916, Ernest John Pool born 1918, Florence Pool born 1922, William "Bill" Pool born 1925 and Garland Pool born 1927.

Charles died 18 Jan 1933 at the age of 88 and is buried in Friendship Cemetery, West Fork, Washington County, Arkansas.

Clara Bell Straw Pool, born 24 Jul 1888, Nevada, Iowa, died 9 May 1990 at the age of 101 in Bolivar, Missouri. She was the last Civil War widow to receive a pension in Missouri.

Brother Bill entered service in the US Army in 1944 at the age of 19. After completing boot camp, he was sent to New York where he boarded the Queen Mary, and then made his way to Scotland. From there he headed to the continent and fought in the European Campaign. During his service, he traveled throughout Europe, seeing firsthand the atrocities caused by the largest war the world had ever seen. As a replacement soldier, he saw some of the worst sights imaginable and as their name implies, these are men who come into battle to replace the casualties.

During battle, an officer was severely wounded. Pool took the idea of 'no man left behind' to heart and urged his commanding officer to help the injured soldier, which entailed going onto the battlefield to retrieve him. The commander didn't feel it was safe to do so, in essence choosing to leave the man to his fate. Pool took it upon himself to recruit another soldier to rescue the officer, which saved his life. For this action, Bill was awarded a Bronze Star. [source: Bolivar Herald-Free Press online, 12 Jan 2024]

After returning home from the war, Brother Bill married Shirley Courtney and they had nine children. Bill first worked as a mechanic, then went into construction where he was able to provide for his large family. His daughter praised her father; he never missed a day of work and they went to church every Sunday.

The Department Commander, on behalf of the Department, sent Brother Bill a Birthday Card as well as a lap quilt with a US Army motif made by Sister Jean Sheehan, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mary Edwards Walker Tent 12, Port St. Lucie, FL.

Photo: Brother Robert Aubuchon, Commander, Dept. of Missouri, presents a membership certificate from the Dept to Brother Bill.

Saga of a Charter

Willie Grout Camp 25 was formed in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1894 to aid the Grand Army of the Republic General George Ward Post 10. The Camp and the Post worked together to honor the Boys in Blue for many years. Tragedy struck in 1897 when the original 1894 charter was lost in a fire. A replacement charter was issued in 1897 noting that rank was established from 1894.

The camp met for many years in the home of Post 10, the Bull Mansion in downtown Worcester. As the GAR faded from the scene, Camp 25 dwindled in size. When the GAR ceased operating, ownership of the hall resorted to the city of Worcester, and Camp 25 was forced to find other meeting places. At the closure of the GAR hall most of the property there was sent to the Worcester Historical Museum. This included the original 1897 charter of Camp 25.

As the years passed, Camp 25 continued to meet at various locations and secured a facsimile replacement charter around 1929 but eventually the membership dwindled to just a small handful of brother members. A renaissance began under the leadership of Peter Rotando and Perley Mellor, and Willie Grout Camp 25 came back to full life with as many as thirty-nine members reported in some years. The camp supported

Memorial Day observances in the city of Worcester and worked to clean Civil War veteran gravestones and secure stones for those graves throughout Worcester and nearby communities. Efforts to recover the original charter were initially rebuffed.

After some time, Brother Rey Rodriquez renewed the effort to secure the charter. Brother George Maple had a seat on the GAR Hall committee. After some negotiation the camp persuaded the Museum that since Camp 25 had not folded the charter was the property of the camp. Brother Peter Preble was able to secure the original charter and return it to the camp in 2017.

Initial perusal of the charter showed that it had suffered from being secured to an acid paper type mat, was torn and dirty and even had old fashioned cellophane tape securing a ribbon. Conservation or restoration was in order.

At this time, Camp 25 determined that the Northeast Document Conservation Center NEDCC in Andover, Massachusetts was the best place to have the charter examined and it was duly brought there by Brother Jim Pinzino.

The initial report by NEDCC brought some surprises. It turned out that the charter initially visible was itself a copy made on paper produced in 1929. Along with the obvious damage and deterioration visible to all it turned out that the 1929 charter was in place over the original 1897 replacement charter! This charter was individually hand signed in ink by the membership of Camp 25 at that time.

Along with the assessment of condition the Camp learned that a conservation program would cost nearly $5000 without including archival framing. Fundraising began with brothers of the camp committing as much money as they could. Several hundred dollars were raised but not nearly enough. Appeals for grants from various local and national organizations were not successful. NEDCC was very patient inquiring every year about our status. The Department of Massachusetts of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War agreed to supply $1000 and at that point it was decided to focus our efforts on the 1897 charter as the most historically significant. Then Brother Andrew Kjellberg of North Grafton mentioned the State Historical Records Advisory Board or SHRAB, a part of the office of the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, might be a source of a grant. An application was duly made describing the importance of the charter to our camp and the city of Worcester.

Then came the great day when Secretary of State William Galvin sent a letter announcing we had secured the grant! The letter detailing the amount showed that Camp 25 was awarded more than we had asked for! With funding secured we were finally able to tell NEDCC to go ahead with conservation of both documents and with archival framing of the original 1897 charter. Camp 25 also entered discussions with the Worcester Historical Museum to secure the charter on loan for display. Along with the conservation of the two charters a fine copy of each charter was made and one of these will now be suitably framed to replace the facsimile copy used now for many years at all official functions. The conserved 1929 charter, the remaining new copy and the replaced facsimile will be sent to the SUVCW Department of Massachusetts archives for preservation.

It is interesting to note that the conserved charter has a watermark of the words Friendship, Charity and Loyalty. The 1929 charter uses the words Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty as do all currently issued charters.

In the name and by the authority of the
SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
To all unto whom these presents shall come, Greeting:
Know Ye,
CAMP OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CAMP, NO.
DEPARTMENT OF

The charters as received before we knew the 1897 original replacement was secured under this 1929 era copy.

In the name and by the authority of the
SONS OF VETERANS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
To all unto whom these presents shall come, Greeting:
Know Ye, That, reposing Special Trust and Confidence in our Worthy Brothers
By virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby constitute them, their associates and successors a
CAMP OF THE SONS OF VETERANS,
TO BE KNOWN AS
Willis Grout CAMP, NO. 26, DIVISION OF Massachusetts
located at Worcester and as such they are hereby duly authorized and empowered to perform all acts necessary to conduct the business of said Camp, in accordance with the constitution provided for its government and the general rules and regulations of the Order.
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Division Seal to be affixed at Boston in the State of Massachusetts this 17th day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-seven and in the One Hundred and 21st year of the Independence of the United States of America.
Orange H. Cook
Colonel Commanding Division of Massachusetts
Attest Jos. N. Howard Adjutant
Headquarters Commandery in Chief.
Recorded Vol 18 Page 74
Reading, Pa., April 14th A.D. 1897.
Approved and Published
Commander in Chief
Attest H. H. Hammer Adjutant General
With rank from Oct. 19 1894

The original 1897 replacement copy after conservation.

National Guard Museum in Concord

Camp Charles H. Bond #104 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Massachusetts National Guard Museum in Concord, MA. The museum continues to acquire articles for its archives.

The uniform cap pictured below is a recent acquisition to the archives. It is from the early 1900s and was used by the Sons of Veterans up until about the 1930s worn with the Army's M1895 undress uniform. Similar to the Army's M1902 dress cap, this "bell cap" style was popular with many organizations and survives in use today often found as a dress uniform cap for fire departments. This is most likely from our Camp 1 as it was made by a uniform company in Boston, though hypothetically could have been ordered by Camp 1 in another state. The cap is in great condition with only minor scuffing on the brim and two small moth holes. The bullion embroidery and chinstrap are all intact along with the two Sons of Veterans coat of arms chinstrap buttons.

The composite photo pictured on the following page was acquired last year. It is from Camp 108 in Pittsfield. Recently, Department SVC John Wilder worked to restore the original frame, clean the photo, and remount it with archival safe materials, (all for about $3 in materials!) This photo will now be able to be preserved for many years to come! If you examine the image closely you can see that the original was constructed by pinning together full-size cabinet card photos.

For more information about the museum or any of the items in the archives, please contact Camp Commander Matt Ahern.

Department Encampment at the Lakeside Inn in Wakefield

The 2025 Department of Massachusetts SUVCW is being held from Friday, April 25 through Saturday, April 26, at the Lakeside Inn located at 595 North Avenue, Wakefield, Massachusetts. For those staying overnight, the room rate is $109. Call the Lakeside Inn to make a reservation at 781-245-6100. When you call to make a reservation, advise them you want the room rate for the "SUVCW".

Wives and other family members are welcome and encouraged to attend all events except the Saturday Business meeting. Wives are also encouraged to attend the Saturday Afternoon Tea during the business meeting!

The Friday Night *Campfire* will include pizza with live music by "Irish Whispa!" There will be a Saturday breakfast buffet that includes assorted bagels with cream cheese, scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, bacon and breakfast sausage links, a fresh cut fruit platter, juices, coffee, and tea. Saturday lunch buffet includes pasta salad, garden salad with assorted dressings, sandwiches: ham and Swiss cheese, turkey and cheddar cheese, roast beef and Swiss cheese, relish tray and potato chips as well as assorted cookies and brownies, coffee, decaf, and a selection of assorted teas. Saturday evening banquet meal includes a choice of sirloin tips, or chicken, broccoli and cavatappi in alfredo sauce. Of course, all the fixings such as salad with assorted dressings, rosemary roasted red bliss potatoes, rolls and butter, and assorted cookies and brownies as well as coffee and tea come with the meal.

To register, you may use the form on the following page or go to the “Events” page on the Department website to download the registration form at: https://www.suvmass.org/events

Encampment registrations must be received by 15 April 2025

Department of Massachusetts SUVCW
2025 Encampment Registration Form
Friday April 25 - Saturday April 26
595 North Avenue, Wakefield, Massachusetts, 01880 Tel: 781-245-6100
www.lakesideinnwakefield.com
Room Rate: $109.00 Call to make your room reservation using rate "SUVCW"
Wives and other family members are welcome and encouraged to attend all events except the Saturday Business meeting! Wives are also encouraged to attend the Saturday Afternoon Tea during the business meeting!

Friday Night Campfire and Pizza with live music by "Irish Whispa!"

Breakfast Buffet
assorted bagels with cream cheese scrambled eggs
home fried potatoes
bacon and breakfast sausage links fresh cut fruit platter
juices, coffee, decaf and assorted teas

	Price	No.	Subtotal
Registration	$ 10.00		
Friday Night Campfire	Free		
Saturday Breakfast Buffet	$ 27.00		
Saturday Lunch Buffet	$ 27.00		
Saturday Evening Banquet	$ 40.00		
Total A-La-Carte	$ 104.00		
Discounted package Rate (Includes all of the above)	$ 80.00		

Registration must be received by 15 April 2025

Saturday Evening Banquet Meal Selection

	Number
Sirloin Tips	
Chicken, Broccoli and Cavatappi in Alfredo Sauce	

Please note any dietary restrictions (Vegan, Gluten free etc) and the number of meals needed

Lunch Buffet
Pasta Salad
Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings Sandwiches: Ham and Swiss Cheese, Turkey and Cheddar Cheese, Roast Beef and Swiss Cheese, Relish Tray & Potato Chips Assorted Cookies & Brownies Coffee, Decaf, Selection of Assorted Teas

Saturday Evening Banquet meal includes:
Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings or Caesar Salad Rosemary Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes
Rolls & Butter
Assorted Cookies & Brownies
Coffee, Decaf, Selection of Assorted Teas

Return the attached reply form with check or money order payable to Dept of Mass, SUVCW to:
Department Encampment
John Dupre' Secretary
20 Brigham St.
Hudson, MA 01749

Save the Dates!

May 25th at the Massachusetts National Cemetery

The annual Memorial Day observance at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne will be held on May 25 (Sunday), 2025 at 1200 pm. The address is Connery Ave, Bourne, MA. The Department of Massachusetts SUVCW will assemble just inside the front gate of the cemetery no later than 12 Noon. The parade steps off at 1 pm. The SUVCW is scheduled to lead the parade of Veterans organizations into the cemetery. Brothers are encouraged to attend either in appropriate business attire or appropriate civil war uniform. It would be great to have a sufficient number of Brothers in uniform to attend to the colors.

May 31st Wakefield

The Town of Wakefield, MA has refurbished its Civil War monument at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars and is looking to organize a ceremony of rededication on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at the monument the Town Common. This is planned to be a significant event, with the governor and other state politicians in attendance, as well as a Civil War band, American Legion representatives, and Civil War reenactors. The SUVCW is invited, and Brothers are encouraged to attend. More information will be shared as it becomes available to the Department.

Clarion Call Publication Dates and Article Submissions

The Clarion Call is published quarterly. Anticipated publication months are December, March, June, and September (to give a few extra weeks to register for our Gettysburg trip). The Editor will email a "Call for articles" to Department Officers and Camp Commanders approximately 14 days prior to publication. However, any Brother who would like to submit an article or Camp news may do so at any time by contacting the Editor at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com.

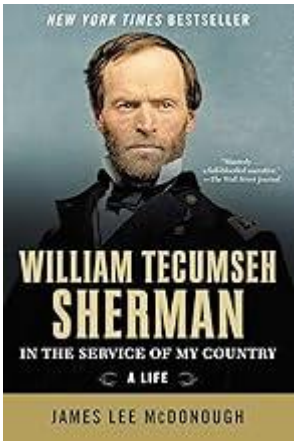
Book Review Column

The Clarion Call Book Review Column is intended to encourage further research into Civil War history. It is the Editor's hope to include both new books as well as old favorites worth rereading.

William Tecumseh Sherman: In the Service of my County: A Life by James Lee McDonough

James Lee McDonough's William Tecumseh Sherman: In the Service of My Country offers a thorough and balanced biography of one of America's most controversial Civil War generals. The book explores Sherman's life from his early years in Ohio, through his time at West Point, to his rise as a key Union leader during the Civil War.

McDonough highlights Sherman's strategic brilliance, particularly his pivotal role in the Union victory. Sherman's role in the Civil War is meticulously chronicled, with McDonough providing in-depth analyses of his strategic decisions and battlefield tactics. From the Battle of Shiloh, which marked a turning point in his military career, to the infamous March to the Sea, Sherman's actions were pivotal in undermining the Confederacy's capacity to continue the war. McDonough portrays Sherman as a general who, despite his harsh methods, was deeply conscious of the war's human toll and sought a swift conclusion to the conflict. McDonough does not shy away from addressing the moral debates surrounding Sherman's "total war" tactics. The author points out that Sherman's strategy of "hard war" was aimed to break the South's will to fight by targeting not only its armies but also its economic infrastructure.



Post-war, Sherman's efforts as Commanding General of the U.S. Army and his role in westward expansion are explored, along with his refusal to enter politics despite public support.

McDonough presents Sherman as both a military genius and a flawed individual, offering readers a nuanced understanding of his legacy. The book is well-researched and accessible, making it a valuable read for those interested in Civil War history and American military leadership.

William Tecumseh: In Service of my Country is available on Amazon.

From The Department Patriotic Instructor

Charles Pinkham and the Battle of Fort Stedman

Charles Pinkham, a Corporal with the 57th Massachusetts Infantry, played a notable role in the Battle of Fort Stedman. The Battle of Fort Stedman, fought on March 25, 1865, was one of the last major engagements of the American Civil War. It took place near Petersburg, Virginia, and was part of the final push by General Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces to break the Union siege of Petersburg.

At dawn on March 25, 1865, Confederate troops under General John B. Gordon launched a surprise attack, aiming to break the Union siege lines around Petersburg, Virginia. Amid fierce fighting, Union soldiers, including Corporal Pinkham, were critical in holding defensive positions and repelling the assault.

Although detailed personal accounts of Pinkham's actions are limited, records indicate that soldiers like him contributed to stopping the Confederate breakthrough, turning the tide of the battle. The Union defense succeeded in reclaiming Fort Stedman and inflicting heavy casualties on Confederate forces, significantly weakening their capacity for further attacks.

Corporal Pinkham was among the soldiers who stormed Fort Stedman during the battle. His official Medal of Honor citation reads: "Captured the flag of the 57th North Carolina Infantry (C.S.A.) and saved his own colors by tearing them from the staff while the enemy was in the camp." He was awarded the Medal of Honor for "Gallantly defending the flag against a concentrated attack and personally killing one of the enemy who had seized it."

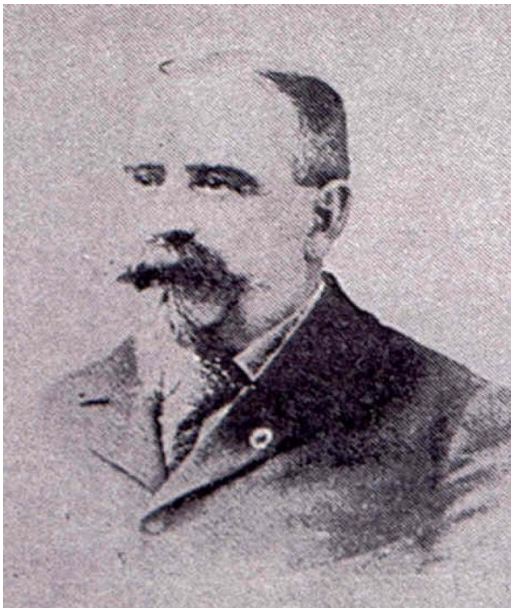
This means that during a chaotic and intense Confederate assault on Union positions at Fort Stedman, Pinkham defended his unit's flag — a vital symbol of morale and unity — from being captured. At a time when capturing an enemy flag was a major objective in battle, Pinkham's act of killing an enemy soldier who attempted to take the flag was both courageous and symbolically important.

By protecting the flag under such dangerous conditions, Pinkham not only showed personal bravery but also helped maintain the cohesion and fighting spirit of his unit during one of the last major Confederate offensives. His Medal of Honor reflects the heroism and leadership he displayed in that critical moment of the battle.

The Union victory at Fort Stedman helped accelerate the fall of Petersburg and Richmond, leading to General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House just weeks later. Charles Pinkham's participation in this pivotal battle highlights the crucial role of Union soldiers in securing one of the final victories that led to the end of the Civil War.

Charles H. Pinkham (18 August 1844 – 6 November 1920) was born in Grafton, Massachusetts in 1844. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland presented him with the Medal of Honor for his service in the American Civil War. Although he was a Corporal at the time of the Battle of Fort Steadman, he was eventually promoted to Sgt. Major and then Brevet Captain in the 57th Massachusetts Infantry. He is buried in Hope Cemetery, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Pinkham's Medal of Honor is a testament to his extraordinary valor and dedication to the cause of preserving the Union. His legacy serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless soldiers during one of the most challenging periods in American history. Charles Pinkham's story is a powerful example of the courage, resilience, and heroism that define the spirit of the Medal of Honor recipients.



Medal of Honor recipient Charles H. Pinkham
57th Massachusetts Infantry

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

George Maple, PDC

Tip for Camps on Printing Membership Cards

What follows is a solution I have found for making up SUVCW Membership Cards in a professional manner. If like me, when filling out the membership cards for your camp you find your home printer cannot feed the card stock on which the cards are printed; I have found a workable solution.

Membership cards are printed eight to a sheet and are available from the National Quartermaster. I discovered that Avery, the label manufacturer, has a clear matte label that is also eight to a sheet, Presta 94238.

The national website has a fillable template for printing membership cards. Microsoft Word - SUVCW MEMBERSHIP CARD TEMPLATE.docx. The template will fill out all the repetitive positions, Camp Name and Number, Department and Expiration Date. You only need to fill out the member's name and classification. Simply print the information on the 94238 label and then affix to card stock. I sign the card as Secretary before affixing the label overlay. Another tip, when entering the member's name add spaces evenly between the names so that the first and last names appear on either side of the logo in the clear space. On the other lines the prompts begin on either end of the line keeping the words clear of the logo depending on their length.

The template for the membership card may be found at: https://suvcw.org/governance-forms/suvcw-membership-card

It may cost the camp a little more money but makes for a very professional and readable card.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John Dupre'
Secretary Treasurer
Willie Grout Camp 25 and Department of Massachusetts SUVCW

1861 School of Music

The Field Music School Association has conducted a Civil War field music school for many years. The school was initially designed as a Civil War immersion weekend primarily for reenactors who are fifers, drummers, or buglers. I had the privilege of attending the school for five consecutive years when it was held at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.

Last summer, the Civil War Field Music School organized a one-day event at the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg, PA. The event's success led to its scheduling at the same location this year on September 20, 2025.

This year's event will differ from the earlier full immersion weekends. No uniform or reenactor affiliation is required. It will be a comprehensive workshop modeled on the ***School of Practice*** from Governors Island, New York, circa 1861. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from some of the foremost field musicians among Civil War living historians.

While fifers, drummers, and buglers of all experience levels are welcome, this year the school also plans to offer a workshop for individuals interested in learning Civil War fife, drum, or bugle, who have no experience. In fact, an instrument is not even required. If you have ever considered learning Civil War period music but thought it was too late in life to start, rest assured that the school is well attended by adults of all experience levels, including absolute beginners. Even if you do not yet own a fife, drum, or bugle, you are encouraged to attend to help you determine your interest before investing time and money into this hobby.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Field Music School Association's Board of Directors for the last two years. If you have any questions about attending the school or getting started in fife, drum or bugle, please contact me at capefifer@gmail.com. The website for the Field Music School Association can be found at https://fieldmusicschool.org.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Ron Glidden
Commander, Camp #54
Clarion Call Editor

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